

At a time when viewers and listeners are eager to find out what is going on all over the world and are tuning in to networks in Britain, Europe, and the Middle East to get different points of view and a wide range of sources, it is not a good idea to restrict the news offerings in America by uniting them under one corporate identity. Simply put, our public media will lose credibility and cease to have a viable role in American life if we cede our distinct voices and outlets. We need wide, diverse media, that do not crowd out alternate or dissenting views. Only by ensuring real independence and competition (more, I'm sad to say, than we seem to have now) can we ensure that Americans genuinely experience the freedom of speech we're fighting for overseas.